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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 5/455	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/27371 (43) International Publication Date: 12 October 1995 (12.10.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/03754 (22) International Filing Date: 31 March 1995 (31.03.95) (30) Priority Data: 08/223,077 4 April 1994 (04.04.94) US 08/354,408 12 December 1994 (12.12.94) US (71) Applicant: ZENITH ELECTRONICS CORPORATION [US/US]; 1000 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, IL 60025-2493 (US). (72) Inventors: KRISHNAMURTHY, Gopalan; 580 Paddock Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090 (US). MYCYNEK, Victor, G.; 320 Ambleside Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (US). SGRIGNOLI, Gary, J.; 1139 Juniper Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056 (US). (74) Agent: CHRYSTAL, John, J.; Ladas & Parry, 224 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, CN, JP, KR, MX, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: DATA SEGMENT DRIVEN AFC LATCH FOR BI-PHASE STABLE FREQUENCY PHASE LOCKED LOOP		
(57) Abstract		
<p>A dual mode AGC system for a television receiver in which data is in the form of symbols occurring at a fixed symbol rate. The symbols are sent in successive data segments, each having a sync character. Enablement of an AFC Defeat signal defines an initial interval during which the IF gain is maximum. When the AFC Defeat signal becomes inactive, the receiver is operated in a non-coherent mode in which the gain of the IF amplifier is reduced incrementally whenever the IF signal exceeds a clipping level for a period of eight successive symbol clocks. Upon a segment synclock condition occurring, a normal coherent mode is entered in which the AGC responds to a signal characteristic, i.e. data segment sync. The rate of gain change available in the non-coherent AGC mode is much greater than that in the normal coherent AGC mode.</p>		

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DATA SEGMENT DRIVEN AFC LATCH
FOR BI-PHASE STABLE FREQUENCY PHASE LOCKED LOOP

This invention relates generally to digital data receivers and particularly concerns a digital television signal receiver. A number of systems have recently been proposed for transmitting and receiving television signals in a digital form. The television signal may comprise, for example, a compressed wideband high definition television (HDTV) signal or one or more compressed National Television System Committee (NTSC) signals. The two most widely promoted modulation techniques being considered for effecting such transmissions are quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM) and vestigial sideband modulation (VSB). U.S. Patent No. 5,087,975 discloses a VSB system for transmitting a television signal in the form of successive M-level symbols over a standard 6 MHz television channel, with a relatively small (low level) pilot at the lower edge of the channel. While the number of levels M (i.e., the VSB mode) characterizing the symbols may vary, the symbol rate is preferably fixed, such as at a rate of $684 H$ (about 10.76 Megasymbols/sec.), where H is the NTSC horizontal scanning frequency. The number of symbol levels used in any particular situation is largely a function of the signal to noise (S/N) ratio characterizing the transmission medium, a smaller number of symbol levels being used in situations where the S/N ratio is low. It is believed that a system accommodating symbol levels of 24, 16, 8, 4 and 2 provides adequate flexibility to satisfy most conditions. It will be appreciated that lower values of M can provide improved S/N ratio performance at the expense of reduced transmission bit rate. For example, assuming a rate of 10.76 Megasymbols/sec., a 2-level VSB signal (1 bit per symbol) provides a transmission bit rate of 10.76 Megabits/sec., a 4-level VSB signal (2 bits per symbol) provides a transmission bit rate of 21.52 Megabits/sec., and so on.

Proper operation of a digital television receiver requires the received carrier signal to be acquired relatively rapidly and the gain of the radiofrequency (RF) and intermediate frequency (IF) sections to be appropriately adjusted. Carrier acquisition in QAM receivers is relatively difficult because of the absence of any sort of pilot. While the use of a pilot in the above-mentioned VSB system greatly facilitates carrier acquisition, some difficulties may nevertheless be encountered due to the relatively low level of the pilot and the limited pull-in range of synchronous demodulators used in VSB receivers. One aspect of the invention enhances pull in of the frequency and phase locked loop (FPLL) and another deals with an improved automatic gain control (AGC) system. Also, the FPLL in the synchronous demodulator is bi-phase stable. Consequently, the phase of the output data may be inverted and therefore need to be phase reversed. Further, the lock-up characteristics of the FPLL are determined by the characteristics of the automatic frequency control (AFC) filter and in another aspect of the invention, an improvement in such characteristics is provided. The present invention is directed to a segment driven AFC latch for stabilizing the FPLL.

It is therefore a basic object of this invention to provide an improved FPLL in a digital data receiver employing a synchronous demodulator that develops a direct current (DC) pilot.

Another aspect of this invention is to provide an improved FPLL that is unaffected by data amplitude or noise.

Further features and advantages of the invention will be apparent upon reading the following description of preferred embodiments of the invention in conjunction with the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a partial block diagram of a receiver constructed for receiving an M-level VSB signal;

FIG. 2 is a more detailed showing of the IF amplifier and synchronous demodulator of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is the circuit for controlling the AGC for the receiver;

FIG. 4 depicts the operational modes of the AGC circuit;

FIG. 5 discloses a data polarity inverter for automatically phase inverting the data, if required;

FIG. 6 is a segment lock driven AFC latch in accordance with the invention; and

FIGS. 7A and 7B are curves illustrating operation of the filter of FIG. 6.

As mentioned above, the transmitted VSB signal preferably includes a small pilot at the lower boundary of the 6 MHz television channel, which is converted to an intermediate frequency (IF) of about 46.69 MHz near the upper boundary of the channel. Also, although not limited thereto, the transmitted signal preferably comprises successive data frames each including 313 data segments. Each data segment includes 832 symbols (occurring at a rate of about 10.76 Megasymbols/sec.), 828 of which are used for data and 4 of which are provided in a fixed position of each data segment for defining a segment sync character. The data segment sync character comprises only 2-level symbols, while the data symbols may be 2, 4, 8, 16 or 24-level depending upon the application. Also, the first data segment of each frame comprises a sequence of 2-level symbols representing a frame synchronization code and a VSB mode control signal identifying the level M (24, 16, 8, 4 or 2) of the data symbols of the remaining 312 data segments of the frame.

The pilot may be conveniently developed in the transmitter by introducing an offset (constant DC level) to the symbol values. In the receiver the offset generates a constant DC which is used for carrier recovery. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, this "recovered" DC in the receiver is eliminated from the data channel, after carrier acquisition, to optimize further processing.

Referring to FIG. 1, the received RF signal is converted to an IF signal by a tuner 10, which is controlled by a microprocessor 12. Microprocessor 12 is responsive to user inputs, from either a keyboard 14 or an IR receiver 16, for applying appropriate signals to tuner 10 for tuning the selected channel. The IF signal, including the pilot at 46.69 MHz, is applied from tuner 10 through a SAW filter 18, having a pass-band of about 41-47 MHz, to an IF amplifier and synchronous demodulator 20. The analog baseband output of demodulator 20 is coupled via a capacitor 21 to an analog to digital (A/D) converter 22, which samples the signal and provides the M-level symbol information in binary form to a digital processor 24. Capacitor 21 eliminates the DC offset mentioned above from the A/D 22 input. As will be explained in further detail hereinafter, A/D 22 is operated for sampling the output of demodulator 20 at the correct symbol times in response to a clock signal generated by digital processor 24. Digital processor 24 supplies the data and also supplies an AGC control signal to IF amplifier and synchronous demodulator 20 which, in turn, supplies a delayed AGC signal to tuner 10. Both demodulator 20 and digital processor 24 are responsive to an AFC Defeat signal generated by microprocessor 12 in response to selected start-up conditions, such as power-up, channel change and loss of data segment or frame synchronization. Finally, since the phase of the data output may be inverted because the FPLL in the synchronous demodulator is bi-phase stable, an automatic arrangement for providing the proper phase of data is also included. This is described more fully in connection with FIG. 5.

IF amplifier and synchronous demodulator 20 is shown in more detail in FIG. 2. The IF signal from SAW filter 18 is applied through a gain controlled amplifier 30 to one input of an IF switch 32. The gain of amplifier 30 is controlled by an AGC control and charge pump 31. circuit 31 is responsive to Gain-Up and Gain-Down signals for charging and discharging a capacitor 33 to a desired value for controlling the gain of

amplifier 30. Circuit 31 also generates a delayed AGC signal for application to tuner 10.

A crystal oscillator 34 is enabled in response to the AFC Defeat signal from microprocessor 12 for applying a relatively strong signal at the frequency of the pilot (46.69 MHz) to a second input of IF switch 32. IF switch 32 is also responsive to the AFC Defeat signal for coupling the output of crystal oscillator 34 to the switch output and is otherwise operable for coupling the output of IF amplifier 30 to its output. Thus the output of IF switch 32 is the IF signal when the AFC Defeat signal is absent, and is the output of crystal oscillator 34 when the AFC Defeat signal is present.

The output of IF switch 32 is applied to the first inputs of a pair of multipliers 40 and 42. A voltage controllable oscillator (VCO) 44 nominally generates an output at a frequency equal to 4 x pilot frequency (i.e. 186.76 MHz), which is applied to a divide-by-four prescaler circuit 46 for producing a pair of 90° phase-displaced signals at the pilot frequency. The in-phase (0°) signal is applied to the second input of multiplier 40 to produce an in-phase baseband component I and the quadrature (90°) signal is applied to the second input of multiplier 42 to produce a quadrature baseband component Q. The I and Q components are coupled through respective low-pass filters 50 and 52 to remove second and higher order harmonic mixer products, and amplified by respective amplifiers 54 and 56 to provide desired output levels. The amplified I and Q components are supplied to respective inputs of an FPLL 58, which is operated, in a well known manner, for generating a tuning voltage V_t for locking the frequency and phase of the signal generated by VCO 44 to 4 times the pilot frequency. Capacitor 21, as mentioned above, prevents the DC offset in the I channel signal from being applied to A/D 22. In this manner, the quadrature signals produced by divider 46 are locked to the pilot IF frequency for appropriately demodulating the received IF signal.

During certain start-up types of conditions, such as during power-up or a channel change, the frequency of VCO 44 may be so far from its nominal frequency of 186.76 MHz that rapid lock-up by FPLL 58 in response to the relatively small received pilot cannot occur. (FPLL 58 typically has a pull-in range of only about ± 100 KHz at the IF frequency with the weak pilot signal, whereas its pull-in range with a strong signal is typically about ± 750 KHz.) To alleviate this problem, the relatively strong 46.69 MHz output of crystal oscillator 34 is applied through IF switch 32 to the inputs of multipliers 40 and 42 during an initial interval, which is defined by the duration of the AFC Defeat signal, i.e. AFC Defeat signal is enabled, rather than the received IF signal from IF amplifier 30. The initial interval comprises a fixed period (approximately 200 milliseconds (ms) long) of maximum gain. It will be appreciated that it takes about 1 ms to bring the gain to maximum--this is considered part of the initial interval. During the initial interval corresponding to the AFC Defeat signal duration, the IF amplifier gain is held at its maximum level, irrespective of the actual level of the IF signal. Thus during the interval, the AGC system is overridden.

A relatively strong signal, at the frequency of the IF pilot is applied to the synchronous demodulator from crystal oscillator 34, during the initial interval to allow FPLL 58 to rapidly bring the frequency of VCO 44 to its nominal value. After the initial interval, as determined by the absence of the channel data signal is continually compared to a maximum value or clipping level by a comparator 72. If the absolute value of the received data signal exceeds the clipping level for eight consecutive symbols, decoder 68 generates an output causing decoder 70 to generate a Gain-Down signal for reducing the gain of amplifier 30 by a predetermined amount or increment. This continues as long as the condition required by comparator 72 is satisfied. For periods when the condition is not satisfied, no gain reduction occurs. When segment sync lock is attained, decoder 68 is disabled and the receiver enters the coherent AGC mode of

operation wherein the gain of amplifier 30 is controlled according to the strength of the received IF signal, for example, as determined from the segment sync character, which is represented by the correlated pulse produced at the output of filter 62. The correlated pulse is applied to a polarity selection circuit (shown in FIG. 5) to assure that the data polarity is correct since FPLL 58 can lock up in either of two phases.

As will be seen, a polarity invert control (FIG. 5) which is developed in response to the correlated pulse and a polarity selection sign bit, is used to control the polarity of polarity inverter 59 and the position of a switch 73 which applies a ground voltage (zero) or a +5V voltage to the FPLL circuit in FIG. 6, as will be described. This feature involves the present invention.

A reference level is subtracted from the correlated pulse in a summer 76 and the result is integrated in an AGC integrator 74, the output of which is applied to decoder 70 for controlling charge pump 31. In particular, when the integrated output of summer 76 exceeds a first level, a Gain-Down signal is generated by decoder 70 to reduce the gain of amplifier 30 and when the integrated signal falls below a second level a Gain-Up signal is generated by decoder 70 to increase the gain of amplifier 30. Integrator 74 is reset by decoder 70 after a Gain-Up or a Gain-Down signal is generated. The output of summer 76 is also applied to a segment sync integrator 94, the output of which is applied to one input of a comparator 96, the other input of which is supplied with a zero signal reference. The output of comparator 96 is supplied to a segment sync generator 98 for providing a segment sync output whenever the integrated correlation pulse from filter 62 is equal to or greater than a zero value and the segment sync lock signal when segment sync lock has been attained.

The segment sync generator 98 develops a segment sync lock signal when a sufficient number of segment syncs have been found (which may be accomplished by using a confidence counter arrangement) and the

segment sync lock signal is conveyed to the FPLL in FIG. 5. As will be seen, the polarity invert control, the segment sync lock signal and the absence of the AFC Defeat Signal are used to accomplish the present invention of latching the AFC for the FPLL.

The non-coherent AGC operation is relatively fast, being able to effect a gain change every eight symbol clocks. Coherent AGC operation, on the other hand, is responsive to the segment sync character and can thus effect a gain change only once per data segment. It will be appreciated that coherent mode AGC may be responsive to any signal characteristics and this invention is not to be limited to the use of segment sync to develop the AGC voltage.

As mentioned, FPLL 58 in synchronous demodulator 20 (FIG. 2) is bi-phase stable. Consequently, the phase of the output data may be inverted. The polarity inverter 59 in digital processor 24 inverts the phase of the data signal, if necessary. Polarity inverter 59 is controlled by the polarity invert control from the polarity selection circuit (FIG. 5).

In FIG. 5, the sign bit of the correlated sync pattern produced at the output of filter 62 is coupled to the D input of a first flip-flop 82, whose Q output is coupled to the p input of a second flip-flop 84 and to one input of a comparator 86, whose second input is supplied with the Q output of flip-flop 84. The

output of comparator 86 is applied to the Reset input of a 3-bit counter 88, whose Carry output is coupled to one input of an AND gate 90. A second input of AND gate 90 is supplied with the Q output of flip-flop 82 and the output of the gate is coupled to the toggle input of a toggle flip-flop 92. The Q output of flip-flop 92 comprises the polarity invert control signal which controls the operation of polarity inverter 59. Flip-flops 82-84 and counter 88 are clocked by the segment sync signal derived from segment sync generator 98 (FIG. 3).

The sign bit of the correlated output of filter 62 will be logic 0 when the output of synchronous demodulator 20 is properly phased. If the sign bit is logic 1, inverter 80 will be operated to invert the polarity of the data signal applied to digital processor 24.

More specifically, flip-flops 82 and 84 are operated for storing the sign bits of successive outputs of sync correlation filter 62. Logic 0 and logic 1 sign bits result in flip-flop states of $Q = 0$ and $Q = 1$, respectively. If the sign bit does not change (i.e. no output from comparator 86) for 8 successive segment sync characters, the output of counter 88 enables AND gate 90 for checking the polarity of the current sign bit. If it is not logic 0, i.e. the state of flip-flop 82 is $Q = 1$, AND 90 will produce an output for toggling flip-flop 92, thereby causing polarity inverter 59 to change state. If the sign bit was logic 0, AND gate 90 does not produce an output and the state of inverter 80 is unchanged.

FIG. 6 shows the preferred embodiment of FPLL 58 (FIG. 2) which is also responsive to the AFC Defeat signal from microprocessor 12 and to the latch arrangement of the present invention as described hereinafter. The FPLL conventionally includes an AFC filter 80 comprising a series of resistors R1, R2 and R3 and capacitors C1, C2 and C3. The input of filter 80 is connected for receiving the demodulated I channel data signal and its output is connected to a first input of a limiter 82, the second input of limiter 82 being supplied with a reference voltage via a resistor 88 that is coupled to a potentiometer 91. The output of limiter 82 is supplied to one input of a multiplier 84. The demodulated Q signal is supplied to a second input of multiplier 84, whose output is connected to a PLL filter 86, which generates the voltage V_i for controlling VCO 44 (FIG. 2).

It will be seen that, in accordance with the present invention, the second input of limiter 82 is also connected through a resistor 92 to a closed terminal (C) of a switch 94 that is operated in response to the segment sync lock signal. The movable element of switch 94 is connected

to another switch 100 that is operated in response to the AFC defeat signal and which is supplied from switch 73 in FIG. 3. It will be recalled that switch 73 couples either a +5V or a 0V (ground) depending upon the lock up polarity of the bi phase stable FPLL 88. The arrangement of the multiple switches in series precludes the FPLL from being latched until segment lock has been achieved and the AFC defeat signal is inactive. The result is that the pilot augmentation circuit of the invention is immediately disabled in response to a channel change, an on/off switch operation, etc.

AFC filter 80 has amplitude and phase versus frequency response characteristics as shown in solid line in FIGS. 7A and 7B, respectively, for (1) rejecting the high frequency data components in the I channel data signal and (2) providing a phase shift of the input signal. An error in the frequency of VCO 44 from its nominal demodulating frequency is reflected in the production of beat frequencies in the I and Q signals. As long as the beat frequencies are not excessive, i.e., the frequency of VCO 44 is within a given range of the nominal demodulation frequency, AFC filter 80 will produce an output of sufficient amplitude and phase to allow for correction of the VCO frequency. Such correction is effected by multiplying the limited output of AFC filter 80 with the Q signal to supply a frequency correction signal to PLL filter 86. With reference to FIGS. 7A and 7B, it will be noted that as the beat frequency increases, the amplitude of the AFC filter response decreases and the phase shift imposed thereby approaches 180°. Both of these factors reduce the effectiveness of AFC filter 80 to make the necessary frequency correction. In particular, when the phase shift of the filter exceeds 180°, the frequency of VCO 44 is actually pushed in a direction opposite from that required to achieve frequency lock. During conditions of receiver turn on, channel change or loss of signal, the frequency of VCO 44 can be sufficiently different from its nominal frequency to make acquisition of the received signal very

difficult, even when the FPLL is operated in response to the output of crystal oscillator 34.

The foregoing problems are overcome by providing a charge pump 88 which is enabled by the AFC Defeat signal for injecting a current into the output node 90 of AFC filter 80 in response to the I signal. This, in effect, modifies the amplitude and phase response characteristics as shown in dotted line in FIGS. 7A and 7B. It will be seen that the modified amplitude response provides a more gradual roll-off in the amplitude response of the filter with increasing frequency and in the phase shift. The phase shift, more importantly, is essentially fixed at about 90° for increasing frequencies and never gets to 180°. Thus, AFC filter 80 provides an increased level output signal having a phase shift of less than 180° (i.e., about 90°) to facilitate carrier acquisition in response to the output of crystal oscillator 34 during the initial interval.

The present invention is thus seen to provide improved performance of the acquisition circuitry (FPLL 58) which develops a small DC voltage in response to the pilot in the received signal. It will be recalled that prior to acquisition, the AGC system is operated at maximum gain which magnifies the DC pilot and aids in the acquisition of frequency lock. During normal, coherent, operation of the AGC (after segment sync lock has been attained), the IF gain is reduced from what it was in the beginning of the initial interval and so is the DC pilot. The various circuit elements in the analog demodulator 20, of which FPLL 58 is a part, can introduce DC voltages which may offset the small DC pilot. Also the data symbols are multi-level level and could adversely influence the lock stability of the FPLL by diminishing the magnitude of the DC pilot developed at the output of filter 80. In some cases, the data or spurious DC voltages in the demodulator 20 may overcome the DC and result in loss of lock or introduction of data dependent phase modulation of VCO 44. This is precluded in the present invention by clamping or latching the AFC when

segment sync lock has been attained by supplying a (relatively) large augmenting DC voltage to the pilot DC, thus preventing unlocking of the FPLL due to data or spurious DC voltages in the chip. Either a +5V or a ground potential is applied to the second input of limiter 82 when segment sync lock has been attained by switches 94 and 100. The determination of +5V or ground is made by the detected sign bit from sync correlation filter 62. The sign bit is determinative of the polarity of the data and the pilot. The FPLL is bi-phase and can lock up with either pilot polarity and whatever polarity of DC it locks to is reinforced with the inventive arrangement.

It is recognized that numerous changes in the described embodiment of the invention will occur to those skilled in the art without departing from the invention. The invention is to be limited only as defined in the claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method of operating a receiver including a bi-phase stable synchronous demodulator sampling a received signal to recover data and a DC pilot component therein, said data being formatted in successive data segments, with each data segment including a sync character, said method including the steps of deriving data segment sync information including a sign bit from the sampled signal and using said sign bit to augment said DC pilot component in response to said data segment sync information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the DC pilot signal component is recovered for locking a FPLL (frequency and phase locked loop) and the last mentioned step includes phase inverting the recovered data when said sign bit indicates the wrong polarity and applying a DC voltage to augment said DC pilot component in response to said data segment sync information and said sign bit.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, including a filter in said synchronous demodulator for recovering said DC pilot component, said method including the step of applying a DC voltage to override said filter in response to said sign bit and said data segment sync information.

4. A television receiver for receiving a digital television signal formatted in repetitive data segments, including sync characters and a pilot component, said receiver including sampling means for recovering data and said DC pilot component from said television signal, synchronous demodulator means including a bi-phase stable phase locked loop locked by said DC pilot component for controlling said sampling means, phase inverting means for reversing the phase of said recovered data, means responsive to said sync characters for producing a sign bit indicative of the polarity of said recovered data, means for operating said phase inverting means when said sign bit indicates the wrong polarity; and means

responsive to said sign bit for stabilizing said bi-phase stable phase locked loop.

5. The receiver of claim 4 wherein said means responsive to said data segment sync characters develops a segment lock signal for controlling operation of said stabilizing means.

6. The receiver of claim 5 wherein said bi-phase stable phase locked loop includes an AFC filter for recovering said DC pilot component and wherein said stabilizing means includes means for supplying a relatively large DC voltage for overriding said AFC filter in response to said segment lock signal.

7. The receiver of claim 6 wherein the polarity of said relatively large DC voltage is determined by the polarity of said sign bit.

8. Apparatus for demodulating a digitally encoded modulated signal including a demodulator responsive to said digitally encoded modulated signal for producing a demodulated output signal having either a first polarity or a second opposite polarity, said demodulated signal including a DC pilot component, means for determining the polarity of said demodulated signal, and means responsive to said determining means for augmenting said DC pilot component.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said signal comprises repetitive segments of multi-level symbols, each segment including a segment sync character, said apparatus including means for developing a segment lock signal responsive to said segment sync character, filter means in said demodulator for recovering said DC pilot component, and said augmenting means applying a relatively large DC voltage to override said filter means responsive to said determining means and to said segment lock signal.

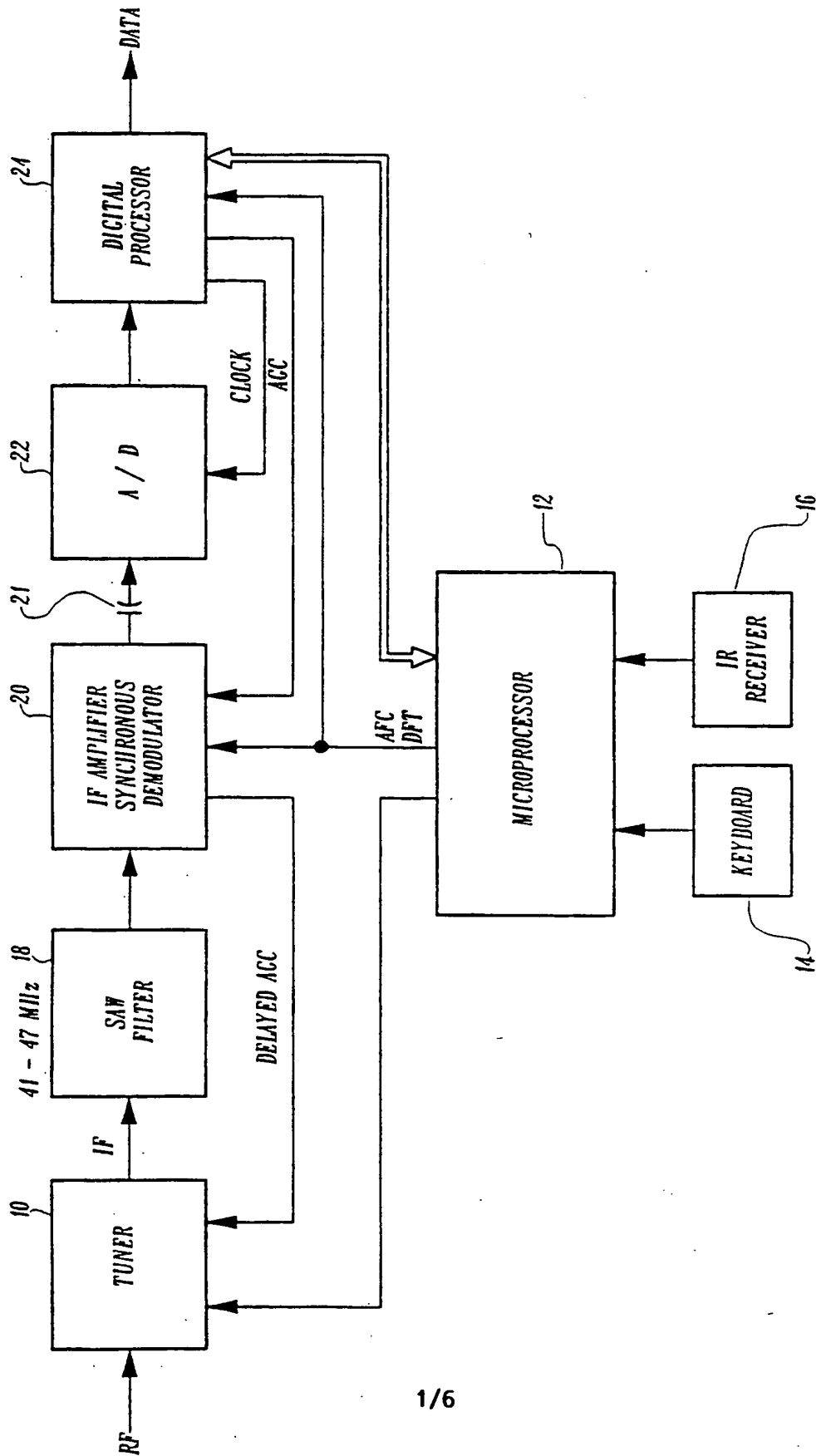
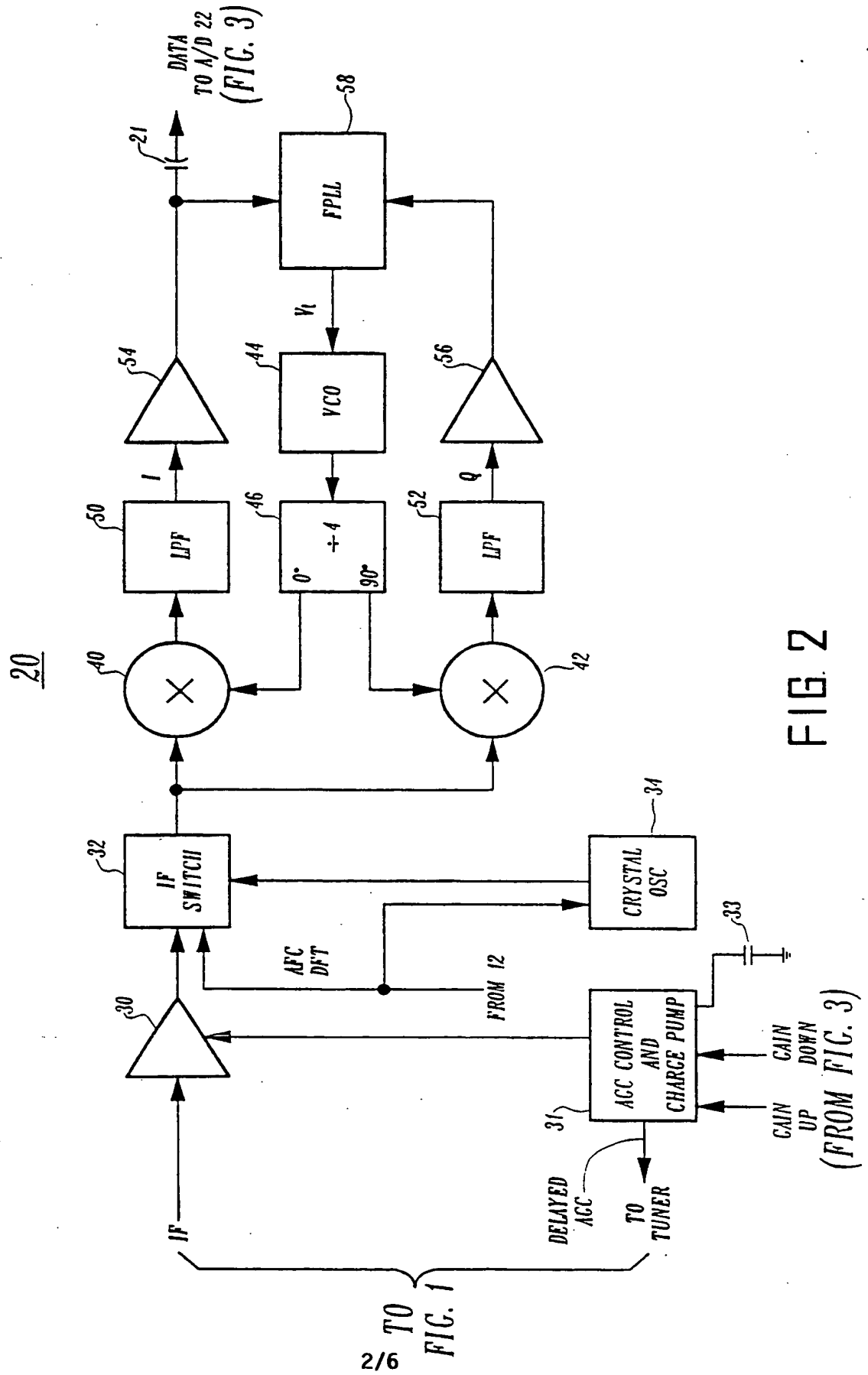


FIG. 1



24

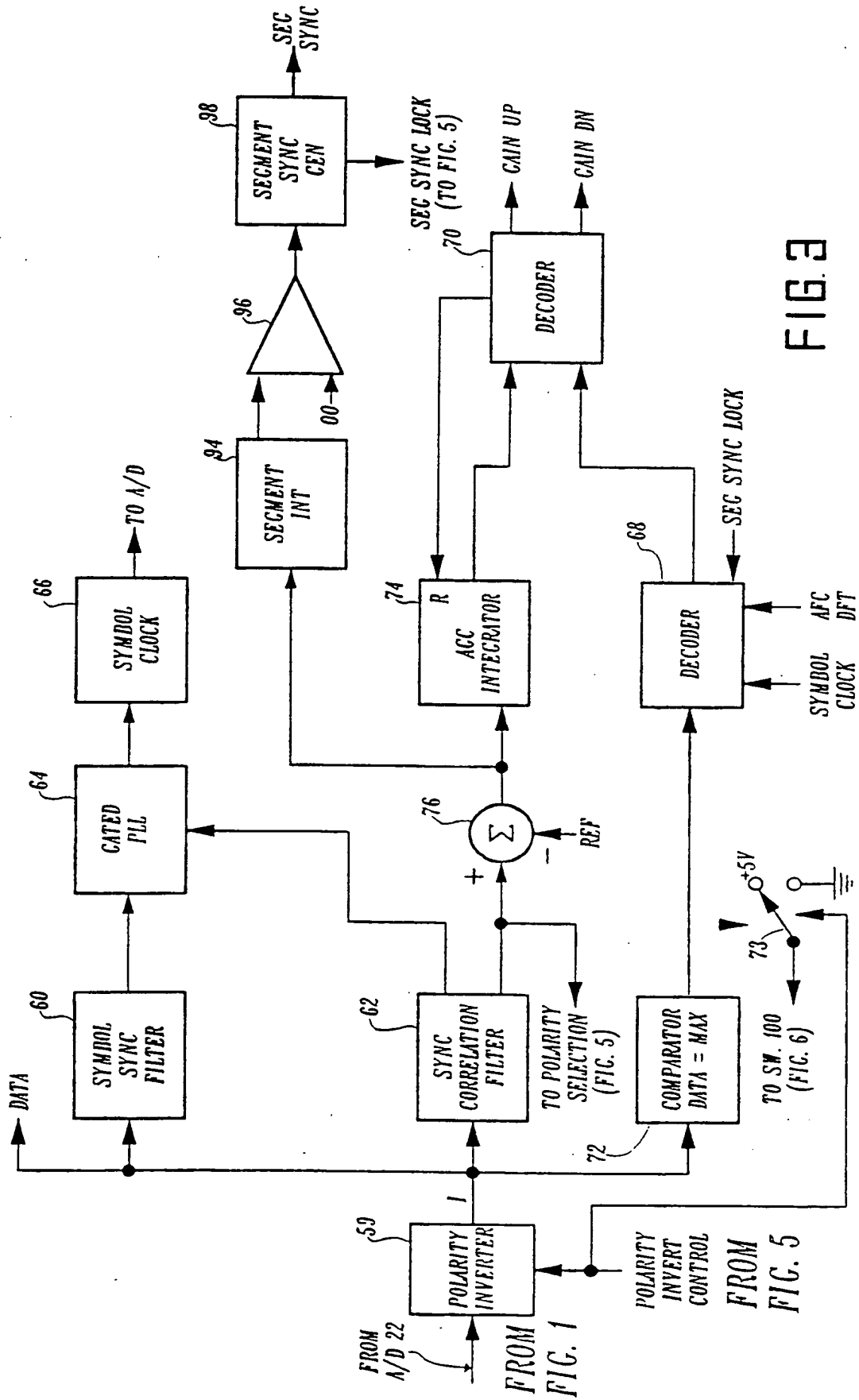
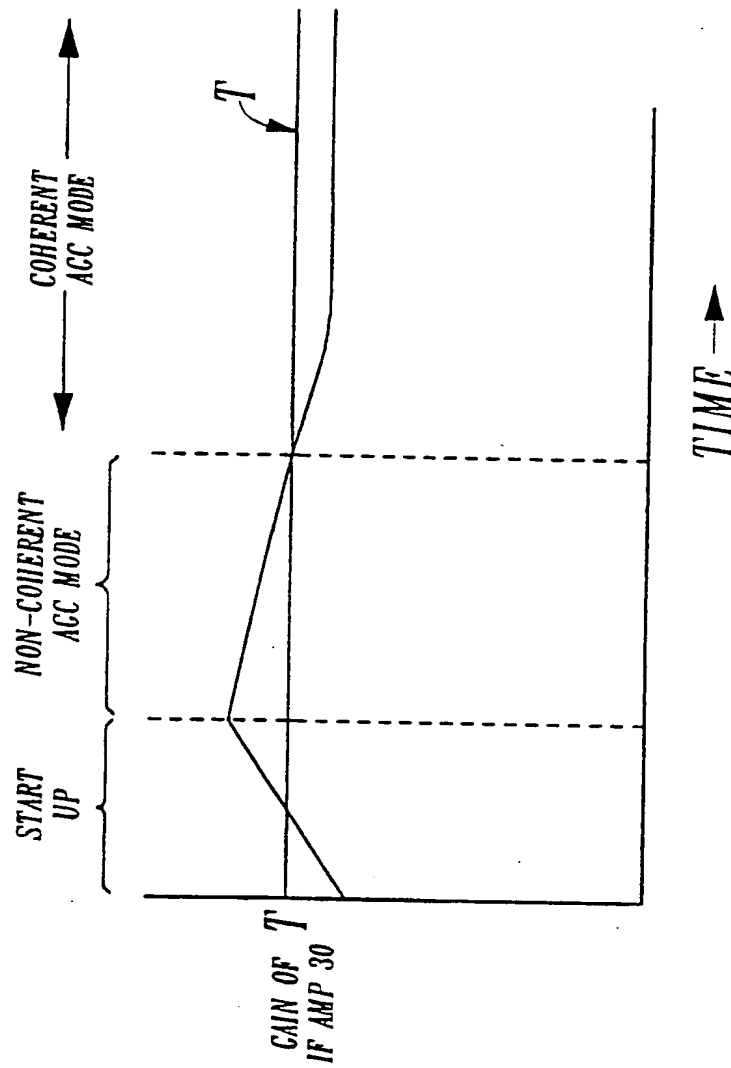


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



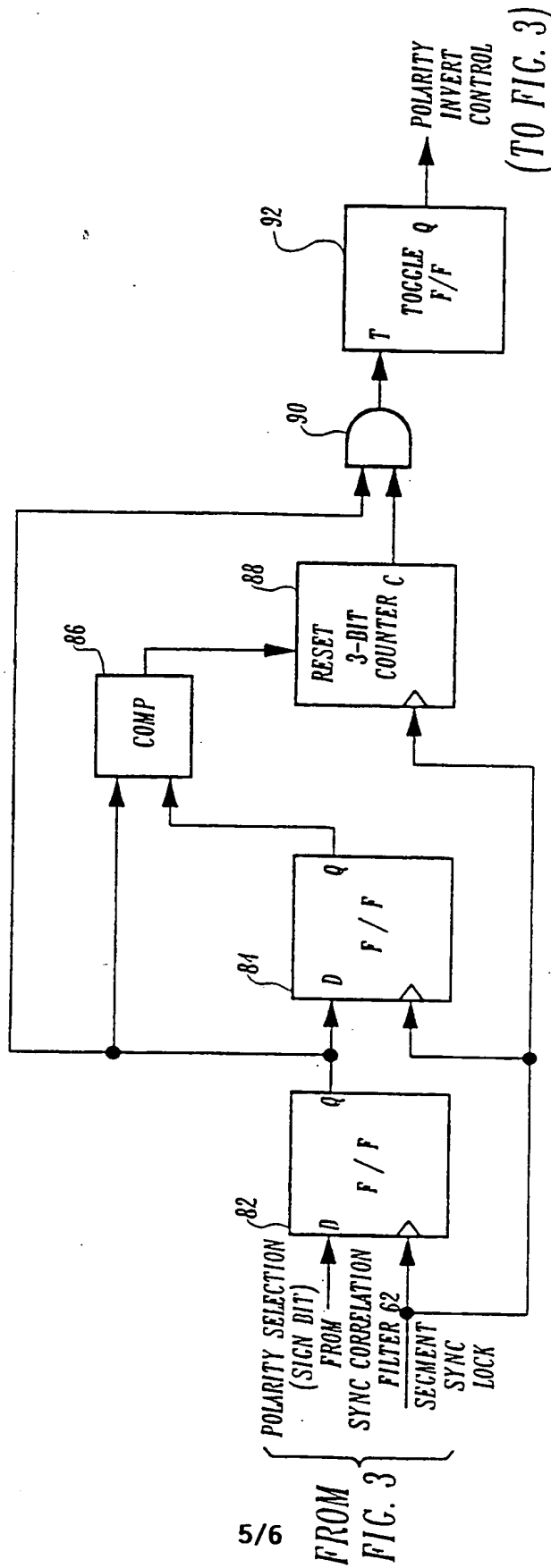


FIG. 5

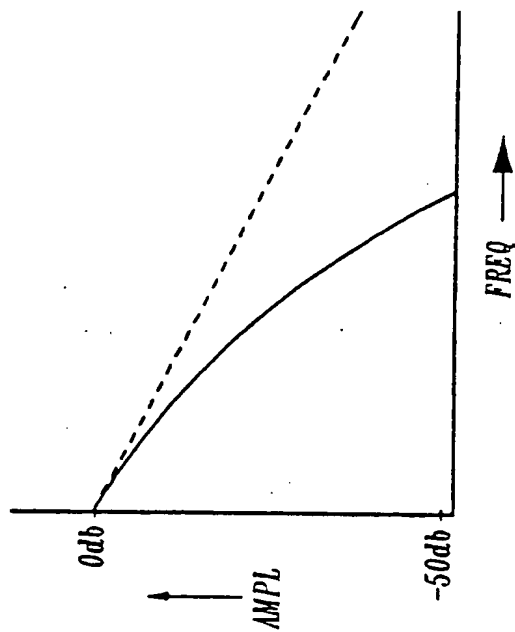


FIG. 7A

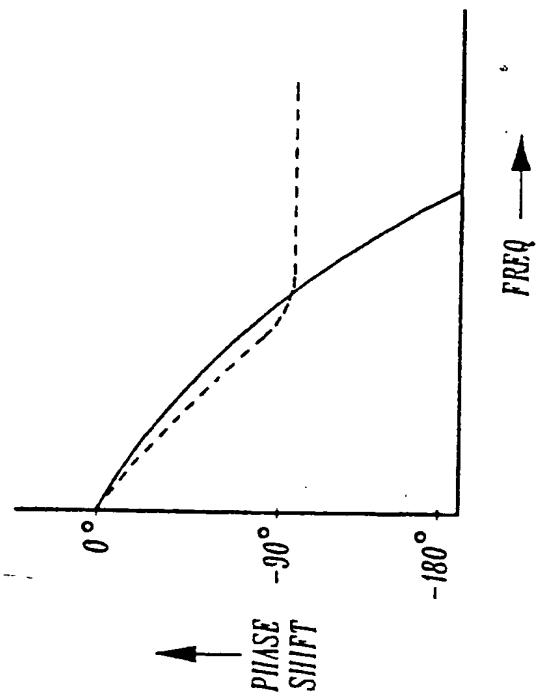


FIG. 7B

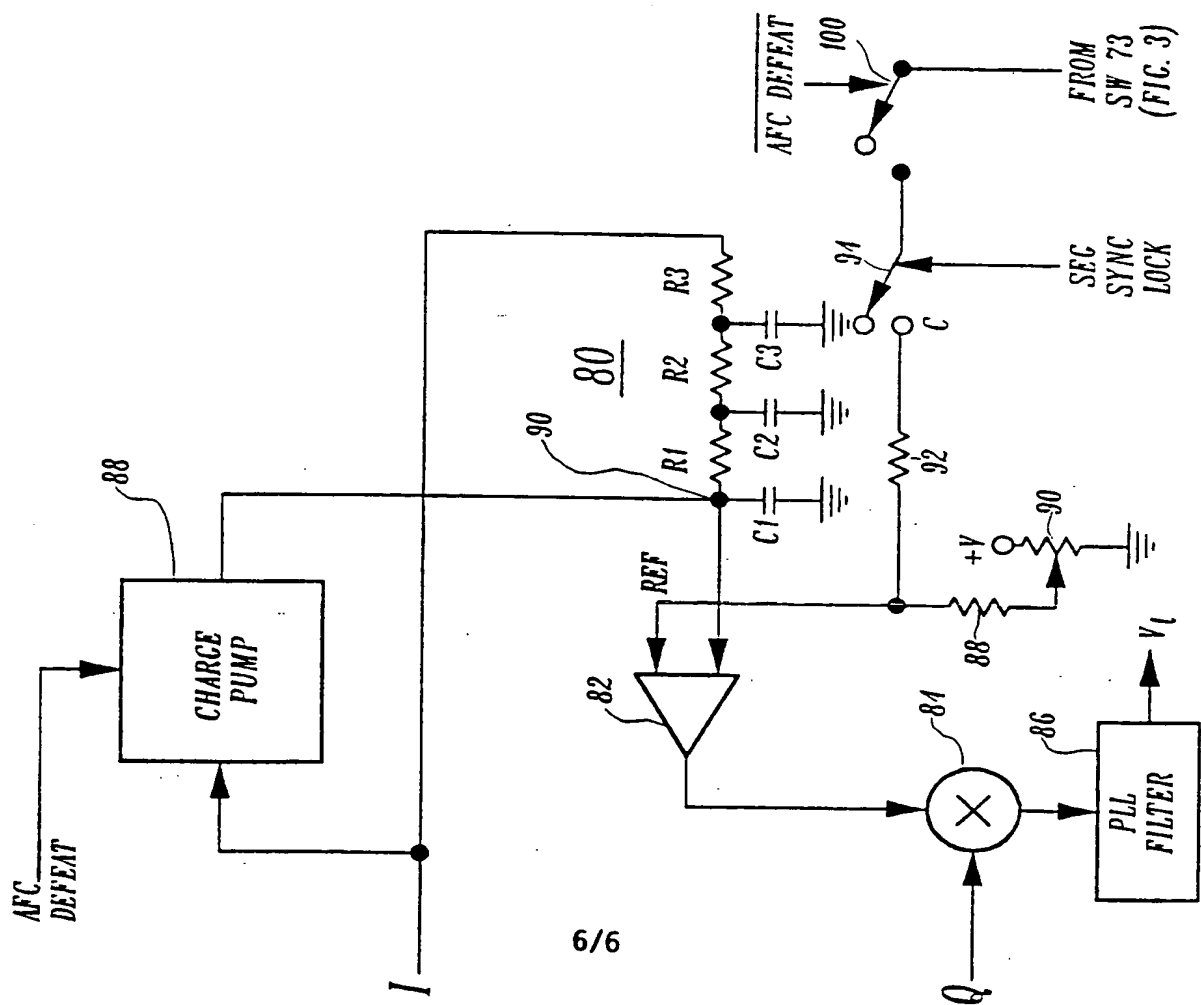


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 95/03754

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H04N5/455

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 H04N H03L H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO-A-92 09174 (ZENITH ELECTRONICS CORPORATION) 29 May 1992 see the whole document	1,4,8
A	& US-A-5 087 975 (CITTA R.) 11 February 1992 cited in the application ---	
A	US-A-5 175 626 (WHITE H.) 29 December 1992 see the whole document ---	1,4,8
A	WO-A-92 16072 (ZENITH ELECTRONICS CORPORATION) 17 September 1992 see the whole document ---	1,4,8
A	WO-A-92 14343 (GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY) 20 August 1992 see the whole document ---	1,4,8
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 July 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

07.08.95

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